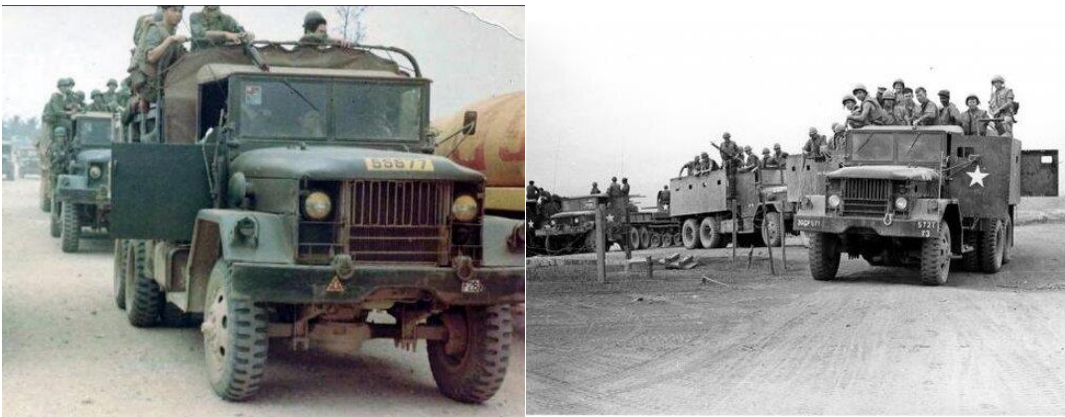


September 9, 2020

Armor and Ammo - There is Never Enough

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin.)

In the Vietnam War, American Soldiers, Marines, SEALs, and other ground forces found themselves lacking in two areas... armor and ammo. Two things that no one wants to run low on outside the wire. An easy solution is to beg, borrow, steal any number of resources to increase your odds of survivability and lethality, or more professionally, the reappropriation of needed supplies and resources.

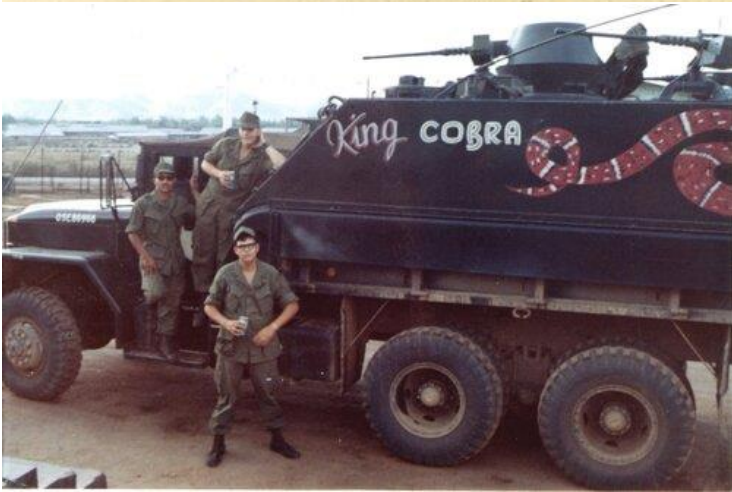


The existing M35 truck was less than ideally equipped to be used as a convoy escort, rescue vehicle, or patrol vehicle; thin or altogether missing armor and always short on ammo. Ammo supply is something easily fixed through reappropriation, while at the same time, manufacture of armor in a warzone not so easy.

To fix such a delimita a resourceful team member would be sent out to find scap metal in any form, thicker the better, and preferably easily welded or bolted to the truck body.

The M35 was a six wheeled two and half ton truck powered by a 127-140 horsepower engine, depending on engine pack installed. With a median weight of 15,380 depending on loadout, it had a top speed of approximately 60 miles per hour. In the M35A1 variant, the truck served as a “Gun Truck” after being up armored and outfitted with suitable weaponry.

The Gun Truck served with distinction, earning the respect of the men assigned to such duties and by those seeking its assistance.







The M35A1 was a beast of a truck when equipped with heavy weapons, some crew served others manned by individuals. Examples of armaments include the Quad-50, four M2 Browning Machine Guns, M60 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), Grenade Launcher, and even the M134 Mini Gun.



Only one original Gun At the end of the Vietnam War the Gun Truck's were stripped of armor and ammo and returned to duty as a standard M35 - it's service had come to end. Truck is still in existence, and is located at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, Virginia.